

## **Legal protection**

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 give specific protection to statutory-designated sites and more general protection to many plants, birds and animals where ever they are found.

It is a criminal offence, without reasonable excuse, intentionally or recklessly to destroy or damage any of the *flora, fauna, or other features by reason of which land is of special interest*, or intentionally or recklessly to disturb any of those fauna. Section 28, (p6) Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981; as incorporated in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000)

Many plant and animal species are subject to protection under Part I of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 or under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. The areas in which birds breed are given protection against disturbance.

Legislation prohibits the uprooting of wild plants. It also prohibits any person from intentionally picking specific wild plants and it is an offence to sell such wild plants.